

Department of Human Resources Development

One very significant bill involving the department encourages state employees with at least six years of satisfactory service to apply for civil service positions (HB1786). Prior to this legislation, exempt employees could apply for civil service positions only when these jobs were open to the general public.

This new legislation not only recognizes the value of exempt employees, it increases competition for civil service positions. This, in turn, will lead to more highly qualified individuals being selected for public service.

Another bill of great importance to the department clarifies the status of employees at conversion charter schools (SB2424). Because these employees retain their civil service status at such schools, hopefully the state and affected public employee unions will resolve litigation pertaining to this matter.

The new legislation will also prompt more Department of Education schools to convert to public charter schools.

- Kathy Watanabe, Director